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ABSTRACTP. 9.
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A method of analyzing a communication network ~~comprising determining~~ ^{THAT DETERMINES} a mean drop rate in a device x by polling each device from a network management computer (NMC) which is in communication with the network, and processing signals in the NMC to determine a drop rate $D(x)$, in accordance with:

$$D(x) = ((L+(x)-L-(x))/2,$$

$$\text{and } L(x) = 1-A(x)$$

where

$A(x)$: the fraction of poll requests from the NMC to device x for which the NMC receives replies (measured over the last M sampling periods), (wherein x must not be broken),

$D(x)$: the mean frame drop rate in device x,

$L(c)$: NMC's perception of the loss rate to device x and back,

$L-(x)$: the NMC's perception of the mean value of $L(z)$ for all devices z connected to device x, closer to the NMC than device x and which are not broken, and

$L+(x)$: the NMC's perception of the mean value of $L(z)$ for all devices z connected to device x, further away from the NMC than device x and which are not broken.

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